

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

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ANNUAL  
REPORT

*OF THE*

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

*AND OF THE*

SENIOR  
SANITARY INSPECTOR

*FOR THE YEAR*

1950



RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF  
PEWSEY

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1950.

My predecessor, Dr. D. L. Johnson, was Medical Officer of Health throughout the year; he took up an appointment with the Wiltshire County Council early in 1950.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 17,850. The excess of births over deaths during 1950 was 141 and the rate of natural increase is thus 7.9 per 1,000 population. There were 282 (146 male and 136 female) live births which gives a rate, per 1,000 population, of 15.8 which becomes 15.48 per 1,000 when corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 15.7 and that for England and Wales 15.8 per 1,000 population.

The death rate based on 141 deaths (77 males and 64 females) after correction for comparability was 8.9 per 1,000 population. The death rate for England and Wales for the administrative county respectively was 11.6 and 10.6 per 1,000 population.

The death rate in infants under one year of age (infant mortality rate) is 17.7 per 1,000 live births : there were actually 5 (3 males and 2 females) such deaths in 282 births during 1950. The corresponding figure for this rate in the administrative county was 22.8 per 1,000 live births and 29.8 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

The neonatal (under 4 weeks of age) deaths correspond to the above numbers : the 5 deaths under one year occurred in the first month of life. Death rates from special causes gave the following rates per 1,000 population, for tuberculosis (0.38 per 1,000), cancer (1.33 per 1,000) and pneumonia (0.38 per 1,000). The proportional mortality rates and principal diseases expressed as a proportion of the total deaths during the year were : diseases of the heart and circulation, other than coronary disease, 29.1 per cent., vascular lesions of the nervous system, 16.3 per cent., cancer 14.9 per cent., coronary disease 10.6 per cent., influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis 7.1 per cent. and tuberculosis 4.3 per cent.

The *incidence rates* per 1,000 population for the following notifiable diseases in the District during 1950 were : whooping cough 4.4 (England and Wales 3.6), scarlet fever 1.7 (England and Wales 1.5), measles 0.9 (England and Wales 8.39) and poliomyelitis (paralytic) 0.1 (England and Wales 0.05).

Notifications of infective diseases totalled 137 for the District during 1950 ; this number included also one case of typhoid (enteric) fever and one of dysentery.

Primary tuberculosis (all forms) notifications which are not included above numbered 13 during 1950 : 11 respiratory and 2 other forms.

The position in regard to diphtheria immunization at 31.12.50 was 87.7 per cent. (3,182) under 15 years of age has completed primary immunization : under 5 years of age 54.3 per cent. of the population in that age group ; and between 5—15 years of age 66.6 per cent. of the estimated population under 15 years of age.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Sanitary Inspector.

*I have the honour to be,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

RODERICK MACKAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

August, 1951.

## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	D. L. JOHNSON, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	S. L. THOMAS, M.S.I.A.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	75,828
Number of Parishes	..	..	..	..	25
Population mid-1950, as estimated by the Registrar General	..	..	..	Total	17,850
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	3,943
Number of new houses erected in 1950 :—					
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	5
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	88
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£98,764
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£396

## VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	146	136	282
Legitimate	138	120	258
Illegitimate	8	16	24
Still Births	7	2	9
Legitimate	7	2	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate			15.8
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.8
Number of Deaths from all causes	77	64	141
Crude Death Rate			7.9
Crude Death Rate for England and Wales			11.6
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	3	2	5
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infantile Death rate per 1,000 live births			17.7
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales			29.8

### NOTE :

The number of births, still-births, and deaths are those registered during 1950 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

**BIRTH RATE ; INFANT DEATH RATE ; TOTAL DEATH RATE, etc.—1950**

	<i>Pewsey R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	15.48	15.73	15.8
Death Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	8.9	10.57	11.6
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births)	17.7	22.81	29.8
Death Rates—Special Causes (per 1,000 pop.) :—			
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0.38	0.25	0.36
" (other forms)	0.00	0.02	—
Cancer	1.33	1.57	—
Pneumonia	0.38	0.36	0.46

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases during 1950 was 137 as against 362 in 1949. These included 79 whooping cough, 28 scarlet fever and 16 measles. Of the 6 cases of poliomyelitis originally notified 2 were returned after correction ; both were paralytic. There were no deaths from this cause.

There was one case of dysentery and one of enteric fever during 1950.

A table of the monthly notifications of infectious diseases is given below ; figures after correction are, scarlet fever 31 ; whooping cough 78 and poliomyelitis (paralytic) 2.

**NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1950**

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ..	15	4	—	1	—	—	2	3	—	3	—	—	28
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	1	17	3	12	3	17	19	7	79
Measles ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	3	3	16
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	6
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	17	4	4	1	3	18	7	17	11	21	22	12	137



## **TUBERCULOSIS**

Thirteen primary notifications were added to the register, 11 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. There were 6 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

## **DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION**

The number of children protected at the end of 1950 was 3,182, a percentage of 87.7.

## **VACCINATION**

During 1950 only 160 infants under one year of age were vaccinated, or something slightly over half the children born (282) during the year. The vaccinations performed in children over a year old are negligible and this unsatisfactory situation cannot fail, in the future, to create a fertile soil for the smallpox virus which can be so readily introduced into an area these days with increased and speedy travel.

Parents would be well advised to consider their obligations in this matter of protecting their children against smallpox, and no opportunity should be lost of impressing this upon them by propaganda on all possible occasions.

In the event of smallpox occurring in this District, arrangements have been made with the Secretary of the Swindon Group Hospital Management Committee for the disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., at the Isolation Hospital, Swindon. Any of the Council's staff, likely to be in contact with a case in the course of their duty have been advised to be re-vaccinated every two years. A smallpox diagnostic test has been obtained from the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

Periodic samples have been satisfactory at Pewsey and Ludgershall supplies; wells and boreholes throughout the district have given reasonable high standards.

## **SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

This Authority has adopted the model byelaws in connection with the control of infection in food handling.

## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

During 1950 there were 5,661 animals slaughtered at the Pewsey slaughterhouse. This is 1,343 animals in excess of the 1949 slaughter figures (4,318) and no other argument is needed to convince the Ministries concerned of the need to improve conditions by the provision of adequate facilities for slaughter.

# CAUSES OF DEATH—1950

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN

		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	3	3	6
2	"          other .. .. .	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease .. .. .	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal .. .. .	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—
8	Measles .. .. .	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	1	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	3	3	6
11	"          "          , lung, bronchus ..	1	—	1
12	"          "          , breast .. .. .	—	2	2
13	"          "          , uterus .. .. .	—	1	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	4	11
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	—	—	—
16	Diabetes .. .. .	1	—	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	12	11	23
18	Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	10	5	15
19	Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	3	4	7
20	Other heart diseases .. .. .	13	17	30
21	Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	3	1	4
22	Influenza .. .. .	2	—	2
23	Pneumonia .. .. .	3	3	6
24	Bronchitis .. .. .	2	—	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ..	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. ..	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	—	2	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformation .. .. .	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases ..	7	7	14
33	Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	—	1	1
34	All other accidents .. .. .	2	—	2
35	Suicide .. .. .	3	—	3
36	Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—	—
All Causes		77	64	141





RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1950

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As I did not take up my appointment until 5th January, last, and this report refers to the year ending 31st December, 1950, it is wholly concerned with the activities of my predecessor in office.

I respectfully present this report and wish to add my regrets that it can be little more than a collection of statistics. It is hoped that next year the report will make more interesting reading.

*I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

E. W. NEWMAN.

## TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water Supply .. .. .	134
Drainage .. .. .	301
Stables and Piggeries .. .. .	1
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	8
Moveable Dwellings .. .. .	73
Factories .. .. .	17
Bakehouses .. .. .	15
Pest Control .. .. .	78
Miscellaneous Visits .. .. .	44
Visits under Public Health Act, 1936 .. .. .	143
Visits under Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	105
Overcrowding .. .. .	14
Verminous Premises .. .. .	17
Infectious Disease and Disinfections .. .. .	44
Slaughterhouse and Knackers' Yard .. .. .	404
Butchers .. .. .	85
Fishmongers and Poulterers .. .. .	41
Grocers .. .. .	20
Dairies and Cowsheds .. .. .	37
Ice-Cream Premises .. .. .	31
Food Preparing .. .. .	21
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Total visits ..	1,633

### ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

Houses represented ..	6
Demolition Orders made ..	3
Undertakings accepted ..	3

### ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Numerous nuisances have been abated as a result of informal action. Statutory action was taken in only two cases. In each case the nuisance has been abated or some form of agreement reached satisfactory to all parties.

### RURAL HOUSING SURVEYS

This survey is still at a standstill though it is hoped some progress will be made in 1951, when an additional inspector is available.

### PEST CONTROL

The arrangements to combine with Marlborough Borough and Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council has continued throughout the year. Complaints have been dealt with but a thorough search for infestation has not been practicable with the limited staff. Arrangements which come into effect in April 1951, should show an improvement in this service to the public.

## **WATER SUPPLIES**

Periodic samples of water have been taken on both the Pewsey and Ludgershall supplies. In both cases satisfactory reports were received.

The Wootton Rivers supply gave some trouble at first but as a result of negotiations improvements have been noted and it is hoped the supply here will be of the highest standard.

Samples taken at wells and boreholes throughout the district show a reasonable standard. The greensand strata being a natural gravity filter of moderate efficiency is practically as good as a manufactured filter.

## **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

The standard of the sites on which moveable dwellings are situated is very low. Some action is necessary and with the housing shortage it is a difficult problem. However, it is my intention to report more fully on this subject to committee and in my next annual report.

## **FACTORIES**

Regular inspections have been carried out at factories in the district, most of which are quite small. Particular attention has been paid to bakehouses and other food factories.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The improvement in drainage and Sewage disposal must keep pace with new water schemes. Some cottages are providing themselves with a piped supply by lifting the water to a cistern in the roof by hand or automatic means. This improvement results in a large increase in water consumption in baths and flush water closets. Disposal of the waste from these fittings must be efficient due to the close proximity to neighbours' wells.

The fact that a sewage and water supply in existence in Everleigh, are not yet available to the public, is a source of continual complaints from this area. The Surveyor is negotiating with the War Department to put this matter in order and it is hoped some improvement will be forthcoming in the near future.

The emptying of cess pools and night soil collection is carried out privately by two contractors. Several complaints have been received from food shops and cafes that the soil vans collect during open hours or meal times. It is appreciated that this may happen at times but the nuisance has been abated by negotiation in all cases.

The open ditches in Netheravon and Upavon receive regular attention but I regret to report that they are still sources of complaints from the frontagers, particularly when the River Bourne rises above the invert of the ditch.

# MEAT INSPECTION (1949 Figures in Brackets)

	<i>Cattle</i> <i>Ex.Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ..	711 (405)	418 (386)	1175 (1026)	3335 (2501)	22 (28)
Number inspected ..	"	"	"	"	"
<i>All diseases except T.B.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	2 (0)	4 (0)	2 (1)	20 (9)	2 (4)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	101 (51)	38 (69)	3 (8)	258 (519)	2 (4)
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ..	14.49 (12.72)	10.05 (17.88)	.43 (.88)	8.34 (21.0)	18.18 (28.0)
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	2 (2)	1 (9)	0	0	0 (1)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	73 (35)	80 (118)	1 (0)		0 (3)
Percentage of No. inspected affected with T.B... ..	10.558 (9.14)	19.378 (32.902)	0	0	0 (14.29)

It will be seen that with the exception of pigs the numbers slaughtered and inspected show a considerable increase on the figures for 1949. According to the last Report there had been large increases on numbers slaughtered in 1948. This was explained by the closure of the Marlborough Slaughterhouse in August, 1949. 1950 is the first complete year of slaughtering for the combined districts.

A definite peak of killing spreads over twenty weeks from September to December and during this period slaughtering takes place on nearly every day of the week including Sunday.

It cannot be impressed too strongly that this slaughterhouse is grossly inadequate for present needs, and it is hoped that in 1951 the Ministries concerned will see fit to approve the erection of the new slaughterhouse.

## MILK SUPPLIES

The Licensing of milk producers is now the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The local authority deal only with the distribution of designated and heat treated milk. Regular inspections are carried out at dairies and liaison takes place with the County Council on the question of Pasteurising plants.

I regret to report that the small milk producer is not getting the attention from the Ministry that was forthcoming from the sanitary inspector. Action seems to be limited to a visit only when a batch of milk is not up to "Keeping Quality" standard. However, the Ministry staff are most co-operative when for some reason we note and advise conditions in which some action is required.

## MILK REGULATIONS, 1949

Distributors	..	..	8	Dairies	..	..	8
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## MILK (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) MILK REGS. 1949

No. of licences issued—5, including supplementary.

## MILK (Special Designation) (Pasteurised Milk) REGS. 1949

No. of licences issued—9, including supplementary.

## FOOD

This Authority adopted the new food byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, late in the year and it is hoped they will be distributed to all traders before this report is before you.

Although Pewsey is a Rural District it must be impressed on all that food prepared in this district is consumed by many thousands of the population outside its area. There is a meals centre at Pewsey preparing school dinners for up to 1,500 children per day. These meals are taken out as far as Ramsbury in the North East, Potterne in the West and Netheravon in the South. This centre is to be relieved in the new year by the opening of another Kitchen at Ludgershall.

The N.A.A.F.I. bakeries at Ludgershall provide the Forces with cakes over a very wide area from Sussex along the South Coast including the whole Salisbury Plain District and Portsmouth.

A Brewery Store and bottling factory also in Ludgershall provides liquid refreshment over an equally large area.





